

Based upon the above-described distinctions, it is believed that Applicants have traversed the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejections and that all of claims 1-79 are now in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of such ground of rejection is requested and acknowledgement of the same is earnestly solicited.

#### **CITED RELEVANT PRIOR ART**

It is not believed that any of the prior art cited but not relied upon, alone or in combination either with each other or other cited prior art teaches, discloses, suggests or makes obvious the claimed features of the present invention.

#### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing comments, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the current grounds of rejection and the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at his convenience should only minor issues remain after consideration of this response in order to permit early resolution of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

DORITY & MANNING,  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW, P.A.

Date

1/23/02

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## CLEAN COPY OF AMENDED PARAGRAPHS

*Page 25, last paragraph:*

B1  
In accordance with the subject invention, first or basic metrology circuit board 140 is provided with a pair of openings generally 142 and 144 for correspondence and receipt in stacked fashion on posts 136 and 138. Such arrangement creates proper alignment of the gap within the center leg of core 128 relative to an appropriate electrical device supported on printed circuit board 140. As illustrated, notches generally 146 and 148 may be provided to fit around lateral legs of core 128, once the device 12 is assembled. Specifically in accordance with the subject invention, it should be understood that board 140 may carry electrical devices such as a Hall cell sensor 141 which, due to predetermined positioning per the subject invention, becomes properly located relative to the flux path associated with core 128, for desired sensing purposes.

*Page 29, second full paragraph:*

B2  
Yet another support feature of chassis 170 is extension 212, which functions to properly position an optical light pipe generally 214, extending between a corresponding light emitting device 215 on first circuit board 140 and inner case opening generally 36 (see Figures 1, 2, and 4). Examples of the specific functions of such light pipe will be discussed in greater detail below.

*Page 39, last paragraph:*

B3  
The output of metrology network 280 resulting in terminal E of fixed connector 164 relates to a pulse output, reflecting data generation by the metrology network 280. Such pulse output E may be utilized for various functions. For example, it may be utilized to modulate an infrared LED 215 associated with light pipe 214 (see discussion above) for providing a signal external to casings for a device in accordance with the subject invention. A customer (for example utility company

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field personnel) may check such pulse signal for proper operation of the meter without interruption thereof. Additionally, it is to be understood that fixed connector 164 is also interconnected with any other circuit boards being utilized, such as an exemplary second circuit board 162 (see Figure 4 and its related discussion). Accordingly, such pulse output signal E is being passed to such higher level function circuit board for possible use there.

*Page 42, first paragraph:*

B4  
Similarly, internal structural changes may be practiced. For example, light pipe 214 (see Figure 4 and others) is generally shown as a straight shaft. In the illustrated embodiments, it isolates the output of a particular infrared LED 215 for showing that the lower or basic metrology board 140 is properly working. However, in certain embodiments, the light pipe may be more S-shaped instead of just straight, to accommodate desirable modifications in the internal component arrangements of a given embodiment.

*Page 42, last paragraph:*

B5  
Regarding outputs, various alternative arrangements may be practiced. For example, with no metal utilized in otherwise plastic faceplate or cover features, an antenna 261 may be provided directly onto a circuit board (such as additional or second circuit board 162) for radiating metering information directly from such circuit board without requiring a second antenna. Any such arrangement may involve greater frequency communications both in and out, meaning that some devices may permit the high level functions of an additional circuit board to be queried by a field technician or reader, for calling for various forms of output, or otherwise controlled or

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Cm 1

reprogrammed by communications in. In some instances, such higher level function boards may incorporate a non-volatile memory for maintaining determined data even during power outages.

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